

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /098 W

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R 161207Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4087

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, AG, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: THE SPANISH CONNECTION

REF: ALGIERS 0262

1. SINCE VISIT IN EARLY FEBRUARY OF SPANISH "PROGRESSIVE" POLITICIANS LED BY COMMUNIST PARTY SECY GEN SANTIAGO CARILLO, ALGERIANS HAVE MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH VARIOUS SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS. LATEST ARRIVALS WERE DELEGATES FROM FOUR PARTIES (SOCIALIST PARTY, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SOCIALIST DEMOCRAT UNION AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRAT PARTY) MAKING UP LEFTIST "PLATFORM OF THE CONVERGENCE." THIS GROUP VISITED HERE MARCH 10-14 AND MET WITH BOUMEDIENE AND FLN REPRESENTATIVES. THEIR VISIT WAS GIVEN ALMOST NO PUBLICITY AND MEMBERS OF DELEGATION NOT NAMED.

2. PRIOR THIS VISIT, CAPTAIN DOMINGUEZ, SPOKESMAN FOR SPANISH DEMOCRAT MILITARY UNION, WAS HERE IN EARLY MARCH. HE WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT SAHARA
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PROBLEM HAD PROVOKED CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE IN SPANISH

ARMY. DONINGUEZ TOLD PRESS THAT SAHARA PROBLEM AND CASE OF NINE IMPRISONED OFFICERS OF DEMOCRAT MILITARY UNION WERE AT HEART OF SPANISH ARMY UNREST.

3. FROM FEB 24-25 , JOAQUIN IBARZ, A MEMBER OF SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF SAHARA IN BARCELONA, VISITED HERE AND TOOK PRO-SAHRAOUI PUBLIC POSITION.

4. COMMENT: ALGERIANS SEEM TO SENSE NALAISE IN SPAIN AS RESULT RAPID SPANISH WITHDRAWAL FROM SAHARA. TO DATE, HOWEVER, ONLY MAJOR SPANISH POLITICIAN TO HAVE VISITED HERE HAS BEEN SANTIAGO CARILLO, AND FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT SPANISH UNEASE DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE AFFECTED GOS SAHARA POLICY VERY MUCH. ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DISMISSED ONE ASPECT OF GOA ANTI-SPANISH EFFORT (THE CANARY ISLANDS LIBERATION MOVEMENT) AS OF NO IMPORTANCE; WE SUSPECT THAT ALGERIANS RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH OF THEIR EFFORT HAS NUSANCE VALUE ONLY. PARKER

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